

varieties, and in var. *glabrata* the seeds are distinctly larger than any of the others. These larger seeds are also more rounded in outline and less angular than those seen elsewhere in the species, but the difference is not very clear-cut.

All of these points seem to be of a "more or less" type, and therefore to indicate varietal rather than specific differences. The other differences noted by Fernald are wholly vegetative (shape, cutting, and texture of leaves and size of plant), occasional exceptions occur as noted above, and the vegetative characters do not always correlate with the reproductive ones. We are therefore inclined to feel that the differences between European *R. islandica* and the ordinary American forms are of the same order of magnitude as those between the various American forms and that the most satisfactory tentative treatment is that of Marie-Victorin—to regard all the major variants as varieties of a single polymorphic world-wide species.

DRABA APRICA IN THE OZARKS OF SOUTHEASTERN MISSOURI

JULIAN A. STEYERMARK

WHEN Dr. Fernald revised *Draba* in Temperate Northeastern America,¹ the question arose as to whether *Draba brachycarpa* Nutt. var. *fastigiata* Nutt. should be included as a synonym under *D. aprica* Beadle. Specimens of this rare species had been collected by Beadle on Kenesaw Mountain, Georgia, in 1901, and again by Dr. Perry and Mr. Myers in 1934. Nuttall's type of *D. brachycarpa* var. *fastigiata* supposedly came from Arkansas, but there was some doubt as to whether his specimens actually came from Arkansas or from Georgia, because plants of *D. brachycarpa* from localities in Georgia were present on the same sheet as were the specimens collected by Nuttall. In view of such circumstances, the likelihood of confusion of data was possible. Students of the Arkansas flora were, therefore, urged to watch for the possible occurrence of this species in that state.

In the spring of 1939, while collecting along the Black River, in Reynolds County, southeastern Missouri, in an area which is threatened to be flooded by the construction of a dam, the writer chanced upon a strange-looking *Draba* growing in low open rocky woods in a

¹ Fernald, M. L., *Draba* in Temperate Northeastern America. RHODORA 36: 361-363. 1934.

broad valley of Black River. It was growing with typical *Draba brachycarpa* Nutt., but its taller unbranched stellate-hairy stems, remote and abbreviated corymbs arising from the middle and upper axils, together with the stellate-hairy siliques marked it as distinct from the commonly encountered *D. brachycarpa*.

Subsequent examination of the collection proved it to be *Draba brachycarpa* var. *fastigiata* Nutt., the same as *D. aprica* Beadle, and specimens were sent to Dr. Fernald for verification. In a letter received from him concerning the specimens, he states, "Your *Draba* is the best kind of *D. aprica* Beadle. It pretty clearly demonstrates that Nuttall's *D. brachycarpa* var. *fastigiata*, which has been a sort of spook, must have been a very dwarfed specimen of the same thing.

"We now have *D. aprica* in northern Georgia, Arkansas, and southeastern Missouri, which gives it a real range."

In other words, the collection of the Missouri specimens shows that *D. aprica* is not limited to Georgia, and that Nuttall's collection of *D. brachycarpa* var. *fastigiata* from Arkansas was authentically labelled, in view of the occurrence of the plant in the adjacent Ozarks of southeastern Missouri.

The writer's Missouri collections of this plant are in the Gray Herbarium and the Herbarium of Field Museum. They are taken from two counties: (1) St. Francis Shut-ins, 14 miles south of Fredericktown, Madison County, April 27, 1930, *J. A. Steyermark 1750*; and (2) growing with *D. brachycarpa* (22096) in alluvial low woods along Black River, between the mouth of Cave Spring Hollow and Logslide Bluff, T29N, R2E, Sect. 13 and 24, 6 miles northwest of Piedmont, Reynolds County, April 30, 1939, *J. A. Steyermark 22097*.

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THE GENUS *ELLISIA*

LINCOLN CONSTANCE

ELLISIA NYCTELEA L., now generally recognized as a member of the tribe *Hydrophyllae* of the *Hydrophyllaceae*, was usually placed with various members of the *Boraginaceae* in pre-Linnean works. Linnaeus first attempted to fit the species into *Ipomoea*, then into *Polemonium* and finally took it as the basis for his genus *Ellisia*, with the comment, "Proprii generis planta est." However, he had previously used the